(b) to (c) Arising of vacancies and their filling up is a continous process. Vacancies are filled up mainly through open market recruitment, and promotions. While promotions are done departmentally, open market recruitment is done mainly through Railway Recruitment Boards. All efforts are being taken to fill up the vacancies especially of safety categories.

Rail Freight Authority

2990. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Rail Freight Authority to oversee the establishment of a dedicated freight corridor; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to plan, construct and maintain the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The SPV will also be responsible for movement of trains within its jurisdiction.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†2991. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame prescribed for the completion of gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan;

(b) the actual and financial progress of the guage conversion projects in Rajasthan and the reasons for delay; and

(c) the details of the budget provision made for Rewari-Sadulpur, Sriganganagar-Sarupsar and Phulera-Jodhpur, railway line in Rajasthan and whether this provision is sufficient to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) The details of on-going gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan, budget outlay during 2006-07, physical and financial progress and the target wherever fixed are given as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.